



US Army Training and Doctrine Command

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TRADOC NCO and Soldier of the Year Announced (*TRADOC Public Affairs*) The 2013 TRADOC NCO of the Year is Staff Sergeant Benjamin Steele representing the Initial Military Training Center of Excellence at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. Sergeant Curtis Bittner was named the 2013 Soldier of the Year, representing the Fires Center of Excellence at Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

Breaking Barriers: 4 Soldiers Set To Become Army's First Women Abrams Tank Maintainers (*Army.mil*, By Nick Duke) Four women Soldiers made history when they became the first women in the Army to obtain the M1 Abrams Tank System Maintainer military occupational specialty. Pfc. Emma Briggs, Pfc. Anita Ramirez, Pvt. Erika Leroy and Pvt. Kaitlin Killsnight all graduated from the 91A course.

AMC Deputy CG Revisits Ordnance Roots (*CASCOM Public Affairs*, By Keith Desbois) CASCOM recently hosted Lt. Gen. Patricia McQuiston, U.S. Army Materiel Command deputy commanding general. During her visit, McQuiston observed training at the Ordnance School and simulators used in training. She also learned how gaming technology is being used to enhance and increase availability of learning opportunities.

Local Teen Hopes To Become First Female Army Ranger (*OurayNews.com*) Though enlisting is still several years away, Cadet Corporal Hanshaw said she is definitely interested in pursuing a career with the U.S. Army. It's her goal to be the first female Army Ranger. "I always felt like I was born to do something different," said Hanshaw. "I was just hungry for the military lifestyle. I absolutely love it, I can't imagine myself doing anything different."

Army Vice-Chief: More Personnel, Brigade Cuts Possible (*Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle*, By Philip Grey) Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. John Campbell addressed pressing concerns for the Army regarding a plethora of Army programs aimed at soldiers and family members, on everything from family and soldier resiliency, suicide, job placement help after service and sexual assault, Campbell said that the Army has to take a hard look at what works and what doesn't in order to channel resources where they can do the most good.

Pentagon Conducts Overhaul of War Plans (*Wall Street Journal*, By Julian E. Barnes) Plans that had presumed the availability of large U.S. forces for invasions and occupations are being redrafted to incorporate strategies such as quick-reaction ground units, air power and Navy ships, according to officials. A big part of the new plans will be options for the use of cyberweapons, which can disable enemies' offensive and defensive capabilities.



TRADOC Public Affairs

TRADOC NCO and Soldier of the Year Announced

FORT EUSTIS, Va. - Seventeen active-duty service members from installations across the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) competed for the title of TRADOC Noncommissioned Officer (NCO) and Soldier of the Year.

Gen. Robert Cone, commander TRADOC, announced the winners on Aug. 1 via a Video teleconference ceremony from the Headquarters at Fort Eustis, Va.

The 2013 TRADOC NCO of the Year is Staff Sergeant Benjamin Steele representing the Initial Military Training Center of Excellence at Fort Jackson, South Carolina.

Sergeant Curtis Bittner was named the 2013 Soldier of the Year, representing the Fires Center of Excellence at Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

This year's board appearance was via video teleconference. Candidates appeared before a board comprised of TRADOC Sergeants Major and chaired by TRADOC's Command Sergeant Major Daniel Daily. Although the Soldiers were seemingly right in front of the board, each competitor was actually facing a camera in a VTC room back at their home station.

Paramount to the success of the competition was ensuring it maintained the rigor of a face-to-face event. TRADOC leaders focused on identifying the professional traits, experience, leadership qualities and excellence expected of an American Soldier.

The competition included the Army Physical Fitness Test, their knowledge of Soldier/Warrior Tasks and Battle Drills. Also, they performed Weapons Qualifications, Land Navigation, and a myriad of Mystery Tasks. All the field events/testing were conducted at the candidate's home station and same high standards were followed.

The warriors represented the major commands (Direct Reporting Units and Center of Excellences) commanded by TRADOC. Each candidate has competed and won at lower level competitions conducted within their respective organizations. NCO and Soldiers vying for the title are based at Fort Huachuca, Ariz.; Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.; Fort Bliss, Texas; Fort Sill, Okla.; Fort Gordon, Ga.; Fort Benning, Ga.; Fort Lee, Va.; Fort Knox, Ky.; Fort Rucker, Ala.; Fort Meade, Md.; Fort Jackson, S.C.

The TRADOC NCO and Soldier of the Year will represent TRADOC at the Army's Best Warrior competition later this fall.

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Army.mil

Breaking Barriers: 4 Soldiers Become Army's First Women Abrams Tank Maintainers

By Nick Duke

FORT BENNING, Ga. -- Four women Soldiers made history Aug. 1, when they became the first women in the Army to obtain the 91A M1 Abrams Tank System Maintainer military occupational specialty.

Pfc. Emma Briggs, Pfc. Anita Ramirez, Pvt. Erika Leroy and Pvt. Kaitlin Killsnight all graduated from the 91A course conducted by E Company, 3rd Battalion, 81st Armor Regiment, 194th Armored Brigade.

Both Briggs and Leroy said they did not know they were going to be the first female Abrams Tank System Maintainers until they arrived at Fort Benning.

"I didn't know I was going to be one of the first females until I got to basic training, and one of the drill sergeants mentioned it to me and told me how hard it was going to be," said Leroy, a San Diego, Calif., native.

Briggs, from Cincinnati, Ohio, said she had no prior mechanical experience before coming to the course, but that she was eager to learn.

"When I first joined, it was kind of a process of elimination," she said. "I was given a lot of choices, anywhere from a human resources job to other types of desk and supply jobs. I have no mechanic background, but I was excited to learn. It's awesome to be a female and know some of these things, and maybe I'll be able to translate this into some kind of car mechanics or even go into that field in the future."

Briggs and Leroy attended basic training together, where they formed a friendship that both said has been beneficial to them throughout the 91A training.

Leroy said watching Briggs complete tasks helped to make her more confident.

"I didn't know how to act or how to handle the stress of knowing that you're going to be picking up a 110-pound part, but watching her do it made me believe that I could do it," Leroy said.

Both Briggs and Leroy also said that they were able to lean on Killsnight and Ramirez when times got tough.

"We've all become very close and we have a very good relationship," Briggs said. "We are very good at working together, and that has really helped us all because sometimes it takes a team of females to get on the tank and take care of it since you have heavy equipment and heavy stuff on the tank."

Not only will the four Soldiers be the first females to obtain the military occupational specialty, or MOS, but Briggs will be the distinguished honor graduate.

Staff Sgt. Jahi Foster, one of the 91A instructors, said Briggs' willpower was what set her apart from the rest of the class.



"She had a lot of self-motivation and she came in with the same attitude every day," Foster said.

"A lot of the students have problems and they've been here for months dealing with things, but she always came out with the same hard-charging, ready-to-go attitude every day."

Briggs said she had no idea she was going to be the honor graduate until the class was put through an obstacle course.

"My sergeants were kind of helping to motivate me during it by saying things like 'Come on, distinguished honor graduate,' so the whole company knew the same time I did," she said. "I had no idea."

With the course at an end, the four must now prepare for the responsibility of working on Abrams tanks in a real-world setting.

"It's a lot of responsibility to take in, but I'm pretty confident," Leroy said. "I know my material, and hopefully I'll be able to come back here and show more females that they can do this and give them someone to relate to."

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CASCOM Public Affairs

AMC Deputy CG Revisits Ordnance Roots

By Keith Desbois

FORT LEE, Va. - The Combined Arms Support Command hosted a visit by Lt. Gen. Patricia McQuiston, U.S. Army Materiel Command deputy commanding general, to share information about training initiatives, credentialing programs and the future of sustainment July 31.

CASCOM is responsible for training over 180,000 students annually, through 541 courses taught by the Ordnance, Quartermaster and Transportation schools, Soldier Support Institute and Army Logistics University. It is also a major subordinate command of the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command.

While visiting Fort Lee, McQuiston took the opportunity to view training at the U.S. Army Ordnance School. As an ordnance officer, she was very interested in the new technologies and state-of-the-art facilities the school uses to instruct students.

Ordnance instructors provided demonstrations of various simulators used in training service members, including the virtual welder and Stryker interactive classroom. Through the use of simulators, students learn the basics of a specialty before engaging in hands-on training.

McQuiston also learned about the CASCOM Technology Integration Branch's App development and how gaming technology is being used to enhance and increase availability of learning opportunities. The Apps enable students to enhance their training in a variety of subjects from their mobile and wireless devices.

During her visit, McQuiston also met with leaders and employees of AMC activities, located here, to learn about their mission and strategic initiatives.

The U.S. Army Materiel Command is the Army's premier provider of materiel readiness, which includes technology, acquisition support, materiel development, logistics power projection, and sustainment, to the total force, across the spectrum of joint military operations.

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OurayNews.com

Local Teen Hopes To Become First Female Army Ranger

Read full story at: <http://www.ouraynews.com/index.php/ouray/31-ouray-events/954-city-of-ouray-local-teen-hopes-to-become-first-female-army-ranger>

Though enlisting is still several years away, Cadet Corporal Hanshaw said she is definitely interested in pursuing a career with the U.S. Army. It's her goal to be the first female Army Ranger. "I always felt like I was born to do something different," said Hanshaw. "I was just hungry for the military lifestyle. I absolutely love it, I can't imagine myself doing anything different."

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Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle

Army Vice-Chief: More Personnel, Brigade Cuts Possible

By Philip Grey

Read full article at: <http://www.theleafchronicle.com/article/20130801/NEWS01/308010093/Army-Vice-Chief-More-personnel-brigade-cuts-possible>

Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. John Campbell addressed a host of pressing concerns for the Army and Fort Campbell during a visit on Thursday. Regarding a plethora of Army programs aimed at soldiers and family members, on everything from family and soldier resiliency, suicide, job placement help after service and sexual assault, Campbell said that the Army has to take a hard look at what works and what doesn't in order to channel resources where they can do the most good.

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Wall Street Journal

Pentagon Conducts Overhaul of War Plans

By Julian E. Barnes

Read full story at:

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887323997004578642281935420370.html>

Plans that had presumed the availability of large U.S. forces for invasions and occupations are being redrafted to incorporate strategies such as quick-reaction ground units, air power and Navy ships, according to officials. A big part of the new plans will be options for the use of cyberweapons, which can disable enemies' offensive and defensive capabilities.

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